

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for decoding a received vector symbol which corresponds to a binary string having a plurality of bit positions, comprising:
 - 5 (a) performing a sphere search so as to obtain an initial set of candidate vectors including a most likely candidate vector; and
 - (b) computing a log-likelihood ratio for each of said bit positions, wherein each said ratio is based on values of a cost function computed for at least some candidate vectors belonging to the initial set, and on values of the
- 10 10 cost function for at least some further candidate vectors constructed by flipping one or more bits of the most likely candidate vector.